

California Recreational Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2009

Tenaya Lodge, Mariposa/Madera Room

1122 Highway 41,

Fish Camp, California

5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:09 PM by Greg Gandrud, Chair

II. Introduction of Committee Members (CRTC) and Staff

- a. Greg Gandrud (GG), Member
- b. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
- c. Cathy Haagen-Smit (CH), Member
- d. David March (DM), Member
- e. John Mercurio (JM), Member
- f. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
- g. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
- h. Ruth Coleman (RC), Director for California State Parks (CSP)
- i. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for CSP
- j. Steve Musillami (SM), Acting Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
- k. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP
- l. Wayne Breece (WB), selected Statewide Trails Manager for CSP

III. Minutes approval from November 2008 Meeting

- a. Minutes moved for approval by JG, seconded by JM and approved unanimously

IV. Reports

- a. State Park Director's Report (RC)
 - Budget—the Department of Finance received direction to restart existing bond projects that were frozen. The election coming up may affect the budget, so there may be a revised budget negotiated in June. CSP supports tourism and has set records with campground reservations, which was recognized in the latest budget with fewer cuts. We have been spending money on improving trail accessibility per a court settlement, so these trails are in good shape.
 - Park Openings--Fort Ord Dunes with 978 acres. Baldwin Hills Visitor's Center connects to urban kids.
 - Welcome to the new members.
 - (JM) So the source of the bond funds is unfrozen?
 - (RC) Yes, but it will take some time to restart construction.

- b. Statewide Trails Manager's Report (SM)
- Recreational Trails Plan Progress Report to the Legislature is complete and approved. The public can access it through the website: www.parks.ca.gov/trails/trailsplan. The Trail Manager's Toolbox is also on line: www.parks.ca.gov.
 - Funding for coastal trail construction projects in State Parks was frozen except for Water's Ridge Trail at Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP. Minor Trails program funding was also frozen.
 - Steve has taken another position in the CSP Planning Division. Wayne Breece will start in a few weeks as the new Statewide Trails Manager and Executive Secretary to the CRTC. Welcome, Wayne!
 - (DR) Thank you, Steve. Next year, we expect to focus on the Recreational Trails Plan, institute an online trails newsletter, make Trails Toolbox improvements, and gain more knowledge about trail user demographics and diversity of use.
- c. Chair Report (GG)
- Thank you for your service, Steve and welcome to Wayne. This is my last meeting as chair. We will elect a new chair today.
- d. Member Reports
- (JG) Thank you, Steve, for being a great liaison between the public and government. I'd like to recognize Hulet Hornbeck & Charlie Willard—thank you for attending. Fire destroyed 38,000 acres of Sequoia National Forest last year. Bears have been encountered on trails. California Trail Days is expanding days and offering a \$500 reward for the best trails program. Thanks to Cheryl for publishing the Trails Toolbox.
 - (JM) Thanks, Steve! Concord had an opportunity to plan transformation of a military base into a 3,000 acre regional park from valley to ridgeline. East Bay Regional Park District passed Measure WW in November which will provide \$16 million for development.
 - (LZ) Thanks, Steve! Please follow leash laws on trails. Loose German Shepherd attacked an equestrian patrol at Folsom Lake SRA. Horse wounded, rider thrown, child injured.
 - (CH) Thanks, Steve! Folsom Lake levels have been low and we had a off-road vehicle / horse incident there recently. I worked with the CSP Off-Highway Vehicle Division, International Mountain Biking Association and equestrian groups to create a trail sharing document. [ed.

note: now posted in the Trails Toolbox at www.parks.ca.gov/trails].

- (DM) Thank you, Charlie W., for encouraging me to apply for the committee.
- (MV) Welcome, Wayne and thank you, Steve!
- (GG) Thanks to the National Park Service staff who assisted with the Yosemite workshop.
- (SM) Thanks to Mike Ketscher from US Forest Service, Rick Chapell from the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew and Gary Nelson from CSP for assisting with the Lewis Creek workshop.

e. Subcommittee Reports

- CRTC Awards Subcommittee (LZ)
 1. There were no nominations this year. Please consider applying for the award for next year.
- User Conflict Subcommittee (JG)
 1. Thanks to Mike for finding a camping spot for the horses we used in the Trail Sharing workshop. Thanks to Bob Gage, Diane Offitt, Michael Kelly, Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit and Marie for their assistance.
- Trail Portal Subcommittee (SM)
 1. We need the committee's help to obtain funding and partnerships to manage this project
 2. (JG) We need support for this project.

V. New Business

a. Election of Committee Officers

- Laura Zabkar is nominated for Chair by MV, seconded by JG, approved by unanimous vote. Laura takes the gavel.
- John Mercurio is nominated for Vice-chair by GG, seconded by JG, approved by unanimous vote
- Cathy Haagen-Smit is nominated for Vice-chair by MV, seconded by JM, approved by unanimous vote

b. Annual Meeting Calendar

- Recommended by SM, with a request to notify the Secretary if members cannot attend:
 1. Glendale, July 22-23, 2009
 2. Clear Lake, Oct. 20-21, 2009
 3. Daly City, Feb. 24-25, 2010
 4. Cambria, May 20-23, 2010 [ed. note: modified to April 21, 2010]

c. California Riding & Hiking Trail Status Report--Four Counties (SM)

- Started in 1944 by equestrian and hiking enthusiasts. Loop route envisioned from Mexico to Oregon via the western

slope of the Sierra, then down the coast range, San Francisco Bay area, to Los Angeles County.

- CSP is investigating CRHT easements it owns. Since it doesn't have management funding, it's unclear how much of the trail is currently used in the 43 counties where it's shown.
- Investigated San Mateo County CRHT easements in order to transfer these to appropriate agencies. Met with stakeholders and county staff to collaborate.
- Investigated San Diego County CRHT easements. 108 miles included in easements with 76 miles currently being used. County staff hiked much of the trail and CSP worked with stakeholder groups to obtain support. County agreed to accept, so CSP is ready to transfer easements. Some routes will need to be re-aligned. Thanks to Sue Waters and Chuck Osbrink of San Diego County and Louise Hogerheide of CSP for their work.
- Investigated Riverside County CRHT easements. Many quitclaims were recorded earlier. The county's General Plan update is underway, so this is a good time to consider CRHT as part their regional trails system.
- Los Angeles County requested that we identify where the CRHT easements exist in LA County. Most in National Forest, near Acton, Fairmont Reservoir. CSP sent them the information and they are deciding how to proceed.
- The full report is attached.

VI. Old Business

a. California Trail Corridors Status Report (SM)

- The system was identified in the California Recreational Trails Plan in 1978. Identifying criteria were established.
- 27 long-distance trail routes of 50 miles or longer were designated in the 2002 California Recreational Trails Plan.
- There are different levels of development, completion and uses.
- The report lists Trail Corridors with substantial progress, minimal progress or no progress, and historic routes (attached).
- Management of the corridors are difficult because of different land managers and jurisdictions.
- CSP plans to compile additional information about these trails and maintain database.

VII. Public Comment

- ### **a. Linda Chaplin representing Sequoia Challenge is working to gather support for the Cross-California Ecological Corridor and the**

- California Independence Trail. She wants the Cross-California Trail to be accessible and is advocating for more accessible trails.
- b. Steve Haze representing the San Joaquin River Trail Council thanks the committee for coming. Outreach is needed to underserved communities: X-Box generation and communities with 50%+ drop-out rate. Focus on kids.
 - c. Jerry Scribner representing the Western States Trail Foundation thinks the focus should be on safety and enforcement. High speed biking doesn't work on every trail. We should designate/create new trails for mountain biking only. Thanks to JG for organizing the Trail Sharing workshop.
 - d. Jim Hasenauer thanks Steve for his leadership. Many equestrians and mountain bikers recreate in/around Glendale where the next meeting will be held. He hopes there is time for a conflict resolution workshop then. The Los Angeles Bike Plan is under development. He hopes everyone will see the display about the Outdoor Children's Bill of Rights on the California Trails & Greenways exhibit table. The National Park Service initiated a process in the Federal Register for November 2008-February 2009 to open trails to mountain bikes. They received 7,000 comments and will be coming out with a ruling soon.

VIII. Next Meeting – Glendale, CA

IX. Adjournment at 6:34 PM